The Pen and Paper

Developed by:

Indiana
WRITING PROJECT

A local site of the National Writing Project

[Advice from Donald Graves](#)

[Setting up Writing Workshop](#)

[Writer's Notebooks with Ruth Ayers](#)

Hello friends,

When school starts you will want to think about building a community of learners, of writers, of good citizens. Being aware of similarities and accepting differences is key to a successful classroom. The first ten days is essential to building that success. Games and activities to promote a positive writing community can be done daily: Posters created and shared showing favorites, coat of arms, family. trioramas, windsocks, and mobiles are great too. You will want to set up classroom procedures. What will the writing workshop look like, sound like, feel like for the students, for you? So much to think about and plan.

You will also want the students to understand the power of writing. They need thirty minutes every day to write. You will want to write with them to show the power of the pen. Sharing is important and can be done is small groups or whole class or a few each day. Students will want to hear your writing too. Encourage sincere and enthusiastic appreciation of everyone's writing.

Students will need a writer's notebook that is as unique as their wallet or backpack. The writer's notebook is not a journal or a diary or a response to reading. It is where students write what is on their minds, their seeds of ideas and thoughts that may grow into a story.

Remember that you are not alone in the writing instruction journey. The Indiana Writing Project is an available resource. Feel free to contact us!

Until next month,

Shirley and Susan

Questions? Contact Susan Darling at susanldarling@gmail.com
or
Shirley Thacker at sthacker128@gmail.com

Need a mentor text to spark memories? *Try All the Places to Love* **by Patricia MacLachlan!**

CONGRATULATIONS

IWP fellow, Jodie K. Scales of Wapahani High School in Selma, Indiana, is a recipient of NCTE's High School Teacher of the Year. Congratulation's Jodie!